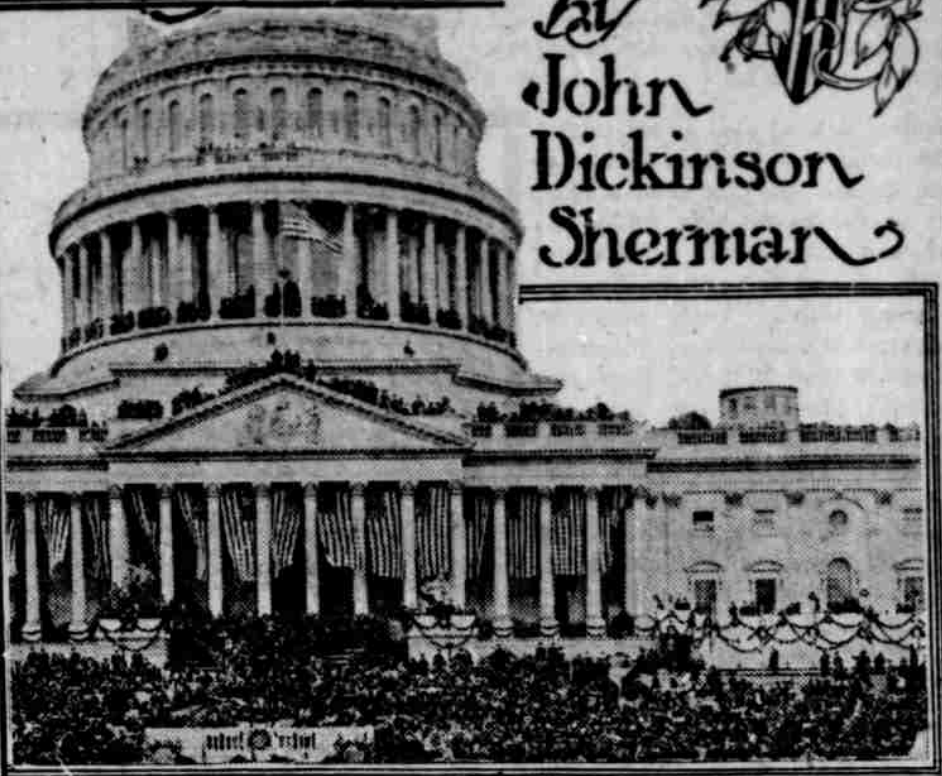


"Quick Action Inauguration"

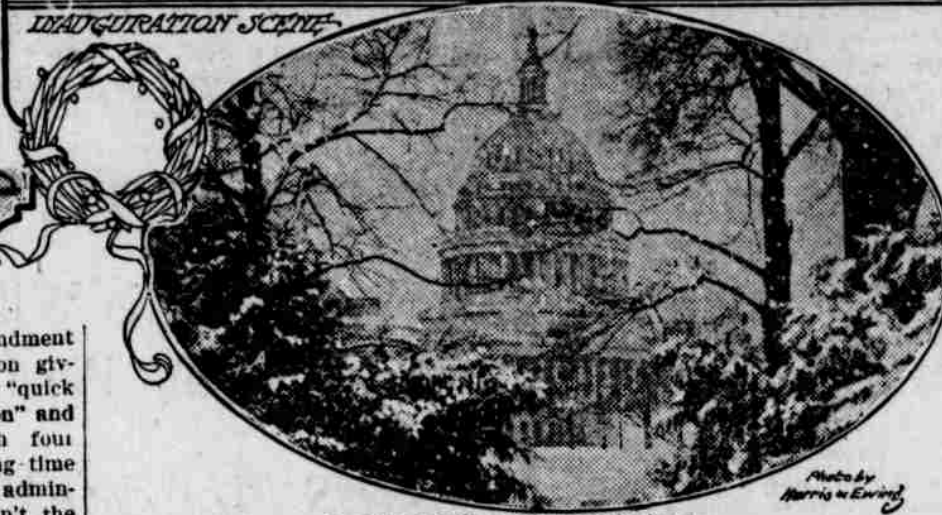
by John Dickinson Sherman



SENATOR ASHURST
Photo by Harris & Ewing



INAUGURATION SCENE



WASHINGTON ON MARCH 6
Photo by Harris & Ewing

HOW about an amendment to the Constitution giving the nation a "quick action inauguration" and doing away with four months of marking time by an outgoing administration? Wouldn't the country be better off in every way if the president-elect were in office and the new congress in session and business going on as usual at the old stand before the end of January? Well, the presidential election of 1920 may be held with this program in prospect. Anyway Senator Henry F. Ashurst of Arizona has introduced a joint resolution (S. J. Res. 228) providing for the amendment of the Constitution as follows:

"SECTION 1. The terms of the President and Vice President of the United States shall commence on the third Monday in January following the election of presidential and vice presidential electors.

"SEC. 2. The presidential and vice presidential electors, composing the Electoral College, shall assemble in the States by which they are appointed and cast their votes for President and Vice President on the second Monday in December following their appointment, and the vote so cast, duly certified, shall be filed with the President of the Senate before the first Monday in January next thereafter, and the Congress shall meet in joint session on the second Monday in January following and open and count the same. Provided, That Congress may alter all the dates fixed in this section, in its discretion.

"SEC. 3. The terms of Senators and Representatives shall commence on the first Monday in January following their election.

"Sec. 4. There shall be held two regular sessions of Congress, convening on the first Monday of January each year.

"SEC. 5. This amendment shall not take effect until after the 4th day of March of the year 1925."

Senator Ashurst's joint resolution is simply worded—transposed a little chronologically his proposed amendment of the Constitution provides that the electors chosen in November and composing the Electoral College shall meet in their respective States on the second Monday in December and there cast their votes; that the new Congress elected in the previous November shall meet on the first Monday in January; that the messengers shall bring the returns from the various States to the President of the Senate and file them before the first Monday in January; that on the second Monday in January the new Congress, sitting in joint session, shall canvass the electoral vote and declare the result, and that on the third Monday in January the President and Vice President shall be inaugurated.

Thus, if this amendment should be adopted without changes, the president-elect in 1920 would take office a month and a half earlier; the new Congress would begin its work two instead of thirteen months after election, and the presidential vote would

be canvassed by the incoming instead of the outgoing Congress.

The Ashurst resolution is not new. In 1914, under a Democratic administration, an effort to make this change was unsuccessful. At that time Senators Nelson (now chairman), Cummins, Shields, Ashurst and Fletcher of the judiciary committee submitted an exhaustive minority report which set forth the arguments in favor of the change. A study of this report shows that the proposed amendment does no violence to the Constitution.

The Constitution, for example, ordains that the president and vice president shall hold office for the term of four years, but does not provide when the terms shall begin. A provision in the Twelfth amendment and an act of Congress fix the date as March 4.

The time of meeting of the presidential electors is left to the discretion of Congress. An act in 1887 fixes the dates now obtaining.

The Constitution provides that senators and representatives shall hold office for six and two years respectively, but does not provide when their terms shall begin.

Modern transportation has changed the travel conditions which made the convening of Congress in regular session thirteen months after the election of its members advisable when the government began operations in 1789.

The convening of Congress in December is inopportune, owing to the holiday season, as everyone knows, and little work is done until January.

Now that under the Seventeenth amendment senators are elected by the people at the November election instead of by the legislatures of the States in January or February, the convening of Congress in January would seem to be opportune.

As to the weather conditions, it is likely that January would be less salubrious than March in Washington. Still, the accompanying photograph of the capital on March 6 shows that accidents will happen in the best regulated weather offices. Moreover, those promoting the Ashurst resolution argue that the question of weather is too insignificant to be an argument against a constitutional amendment which promises much for good government. The pomp and ceremony of kings is not necessary in a republic.

The reasons set forth by this report for the adoption of the proposed amendment are in substance:

"First—Congress should at the earliest practicable time enact the principles of the majority of the people as expressed in the election of each Congress. That is why the Constitution requires the election of a new Congress every two years.

"During the campaign preceding a congressional election the great ques-

tions that divide the political parties are thoroughly discussed for the purpose of determining the policy of the government and of having the sentiments of the majority crystallized into legislation. It is unfair to an administration that the legislation which it thinks so essential to the prosperity of the country should be so long deferred. It is true an extraordinary session may be called early, but such sessions are limited generally to one or two subjects, which of necessity make enormous waste of the time of each house waiting for the other to consider and pass the measures.

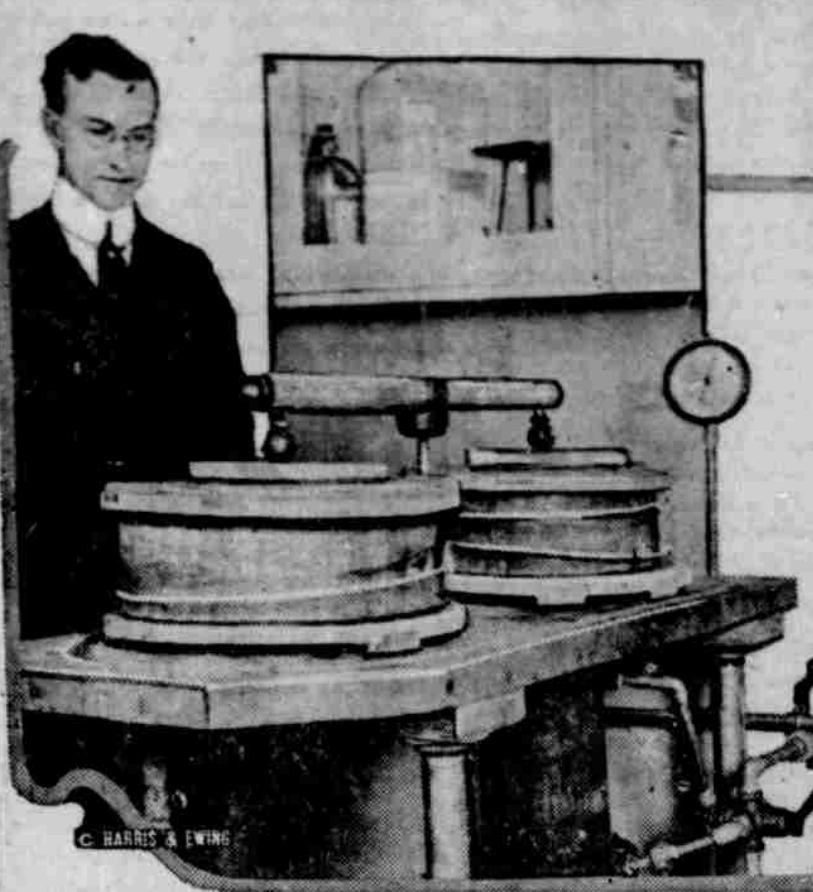
"Second—As the law is at the present time, the second regular session does not convene until after the election of the succeeding Congress. As an election often changes the political complexion of a Congress, under the present law many times we have the injustice of a Congress that has been disapproved by the people enacting laws for the people opposed to their last expression. Such a condition does violence to the rights of the majority. A member of the house of representatives can barely get started in his work until the time arrives for the nominating convention of his district. He has accomplished nothing, and hence has made no record upon which to go before his party or his people.

"Third—Under the present system a contest over a seat in the house of representatives is seldom ever decided until more than half the term, and in many instances until a period of twenty-two months of the term has expired.

"Fourth—The president and vice president should enter upon the performance of their duties as soon as the new Congress can count the electoral votes. It is the old Congress which now counts the electoral votes. It is dangerous to permit the defeated party to retain control of the machinery by which such important offices are declared elected.

"In the event that no candidate for president receives a majority of the electoral votes the Constitution provides that the house of representatives shall elect the president, the representation from each state having one vote. At the present time it is the old Congress that elects the president under such contingency, and thereby it becomes possible for a political party repudiated by the people to elect a president who was defeated at the election. Under the present provision of the Constitution, in the event the house fails to choose a president before March 4, then the vice president then in office becomes president for four years. This affords a great temptation, by mere delay, to defeat the will of the people, and if it is ever exercised it will likely produce a revolution."

Machine That Makes "Swiss Cheese"



Swiss cheese, "made in America," is the latest. K. E. Parks, dairy engineer of the dairy division, Department of Agriculture, is the inventor of the cheese press shown in the picture. This hydraulic press squeezes the cheese into a compact unit of 25 or 30 pounds, completing the operation within 24 hours. The method now in use necessitates all work by hand with a lever press and heavy weights.

\$779,766 For Steel Pensions

Rig Corporation's Disbursements in 1920 Make a New Fund Record, Says Report.

CARNEGIE COMPANY IN LEAD

Greater Than Has Been Disbursed Any Year Since the Establishment of the Fund in 1911—Plants in Eight States.

Pittsburgh, Pa.—An aggregate of \$779,766.60 in pensions was paid to retired employees of the United States Steel corporation and its subsidiary companies in 1920, according to the tenth annual report of the United States Steel and Carnegie pension fund, made public here. This is \$46,059.15 more than was disbursed last year, and greater than had been paid any year since the establishment of the fund in 1911.

There were 3,264 participants; 2,940 were on the list at the beginning of 1920 and 324 were added during the year. Two hundred and ninety-five were discontinued because of death or other causes, leaving 2,969 as active participants.

The total amount disbursed since the establishment of the fund is \$5,880,581.60. Starting with \$281,457.37 in 1911, it has increased annually; the amounts are for 1912, \$358,780.92; 1913, \$422,815.14; 1914, \$511,967.90; 1915, \$659,389.42; 1916, \$711,130.33; 1917, \$712,506.65; 1918, \$700,059.82; 1919, \$733,707.45; and 1920, \$779,766.60.

For ten years the average age of the pensioners has been 65.78 years, the average service 30.41 years, and the average payment \$20.10 monthly.

The beneficiaries make no contribution to the fund. The money is derived from a trust fund of \$12,000,000, established by Andrew Carnegie and the United States Steel corporation.

Carnegie Company Leads.

Because so many of the corporation's activities are in the Pittsburgh district, naturally a large proportion of the funds is distributed here. The Carnegie Steel company leads the subsidiary companies with \$168,715.79, more than \$8,000 increase over the preceding year. The Edgar Thomson works at Braddock, Pa., led all units of this company, with \$38,387.17 awarded its retiring employees, while the Homestead plant was second with \$35,873.80. The old mills of the company, known as the City mills, received \$22,142.24, while \$12,453.97 went to the Youngstown (O.) plant.

The American Steel and Wire company was second with \$152,561.60; the

greatest beneficiary being the South works, Worcester, Mass., with \$27,300.16. The balance went to 30 other plants in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Illinois, and the general office and sales department representatives.

Thirty-one plants of the American Sheet and Tin Plate company participated to the extent of \$96,324.85. The greatest amount of any one of these was \$9,887.51 to the Aetna Standard works at Bridgeport, O. Ten plants of the National Tube company with the general offices and sales department received \$87,270.08, the largest beneficiary being the National works at Pittsburgh with \$37,807.22.

Plants in Eight States.

The American Bridge company's 17 plants and general offices received \$50,104.31, the Pencoed plant at Philadelphia, the largest beneficiary of this company, receiving \$21,393.33. The plants are located in Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Missouri, Minnesota and Michigan. Former employees of the old Keystone

EARTHQUAKES GROWING PAINS

Newer Geologic Formations Cause Tremors Reported From Various Sections.

HARVARD EXPERT EXPLAINS

The World Merely Suffering Another Periodic String of Convulsions, He Says—Scores of Shakes Every Twenty-four Hours.

Cambridge, Mass.—The epidemic of earthquakes that shook the world in several widely separated sections in recent weeks contains no cause for general alarm; they are only the growing pains of the newer geological formations and old Mother Earth herself at heart is still sound and solid. This, in effect, is the reassuring statement of Professor J. B. Woodworth, who is in charge of the Harvard seismographic station, as prepared for the correspondents of the press.

Occur in Series.

Earthquakes have a way of occurring in series, he said, and the world has merely been suffering from another of these periodic strings of convulsions in the shocks reported from Albania, China and Peru. As a matter of fact, there are a score of earthquakes strong enough to be felt or registered somewhere in the world every twenty-four hours, but only a small proportion of them are serious. Some are so small that they would not be realized but for the sensitiveness of instruments. To indicate the fine perceptions of these instruments, Professor Woodworth said that in times of severe storms at sea the crash of the surf on the rock coast of Newfoundland is registered at the seismographic laboratory here.

"The quakes that shook China and South America last month were not the same, but separate shocks," said Professor Woodworth. "Geologists all know that earthquakes are likely thus to come in groups. For example, in the year 1755 the city of Lisbon, Portugal, was destroyed by an earthquake on November 1, while on the 18th of the same month Boston was severely shaken. The difficulty is that there is no way of telling exactly when or where they will occur. If one

Bridge company, absorbed by the American Bridge company, receive \$1,867.80.

The Illinois Steel company distributed \$50,283.62 among five plants and the general offices, while the Tennessee Coal and Iron company had \$8,198.70 divided among 11 mines, quarries, furnaces and works besides general offices and transportation department.

Sixty-three units and the general offices of the H. C. Frick Coke company received \$75,104.49 while the Hostetter-Cornellville Coke company, a subsidiary, divided \$1,041.30 between two units, and the United States Fuel company of Illinois shared \$1,432.75 with three mines.

HE WOULD NEVER PAY TWICE

Wash White Gave His Note in Payment for Mule—Thought That Was Sufficient.

Kansas City, Kan.—A United States district attorney, who has rounded up many of the country's oil stock swindlers, said in a speech here the other day:

"It's pitiful to see how foolish a great many people are when it comes to a question of finance.

"Old Wash White is a good example of financial foolishness. When Wash's boss got back to the delta from the North one day, he found the old man driving a fine young mule hitched to a handsome wagon. Now Wash was a notoriously shiftless customer, and so his boss said to him:

"Where did you get that splendid turnout, Washington?"

"Ah done boughten it at Magnolia, sah," said Wash.

"How much did it cost you?"

"Ah done give mah note fo' \$200 for it, sah."

"Good gracious," said the boss, "where do you expect to get \$200 to meet your note when it falls due?"

"Wash looked astonished and offended.

"Fo' de Lawd's sake, boss man," he said, "you sho'ly don't expect me ter give mah note an' pay, too?"

"FOOL TO GIVE WIFE ALL PAY"

Judge Calls Generous Husband Brainless and Reduces Amount of Alimony.

Detroit, Mich.—"A man is a fool who turns over all his earnings to his wife."

This statement was made from the bench by Judge Harry D. Gingham, when Joseph Lenkiewicz was pleading to be relieved of the payment of alimony.

"What did you do with all the money you made when working?" Judge Gingham asked.

"I always gave every cent to my wife when I lived with her, and have nothing left," Joseph replied.

"I can't protect a man who has no brains," Judge Gingham said, after which he reduced the payments from \$10 to \$6 per week until Joseph gets a job.

IMPROVED CAMERA

Designed particularly for making motion pictures of birds and animals, a new French camera, with a speed of 250 exposures a second, is remarkable for its ingenious method of keeping the moving object in the field of the lens, says Popular Mechanics Magazine. The sighting arm is so connected to the pivoted mirror that they move together in geometrical relation, and an image in the center of

the finder is always reflected into the center of the camera lens, regardless of its position. The flight of birds, and even of projectiles, may thus be recorded for further study, the object being in about the same position on each picture.

Ancient Weather Vane.

The idea of indicating which way the wind blows by means of a vane does not seem to commend itself especially to modern architects. The most interesting specimens of weather vanes

must be referred to the days when chivalry and ecclesiasticism, both lavishly of heraldic or symbolic decoration, were supreme. Effigies of many creatures have done duty as vanes. Man himself has not escaped. The female form divine, even, has not been spared this indignity. Such a sentiment as is expressed in the sentence, "Woman tickle as the wind," may have been in the mind of Theodosius the Great when he erected at Constantinople, in the fourth century, the vane called the "Lady of the Winds."

Start Across U. S. In Ox-Drawn House

Greenwich, Conn.—With his home and, virtually all of his belongings destroyed by fire, J. C. Berrang, a farmer of Worcester, Conn., built a house on wheels and started for California, where he has relatives. The novel wagon is drawn by a pair of oxen which Mr. Berrang raised.

It contains almost every convenience to be found in a house, having drop beds, an oil range, a refrigerator and cooking devices inside. A trailer in the rear, which carries supplies for the oxen, is drawn by a third ox, which is led by the farmer's wife.

The couple average about ten miles a day, and expect to reach California in a year and a half. They are sixty years of age.

MAY WASH OFF COMPLEXIONS

Alabama Policewoman Says She Will Attack Drug Store Variety Wherever Found.

Birmingham, Ala.—Birmingham girls with hectic complexions artificially produced are in for a face washing whenever they appear on the streets in the future, according to Mrs. Hulda Newsome, policewoman. Mrs. Newsome declared that whenever she sees a young girl with a "chalky-white complexion, cheeks of brilliant red, vermilion pigment on her lips and her nose powdered to the nth degree," she feels like escorting her to the nearest bathroom and administering to her face "a liberal dose of soap and water—and I am going to do it, too."